

honor the 33rd anniversary of title IX. Title IX creates opportunities for female athletes. Since its inception in 1972, female participation in sports has increased 400 percent in colleges and 800 percent in high schools. As a young girl, I played on several sports teams. These experiences fostered my love of competition. But they have far greater benefits. Girls who play sports are less likely to have an unplanned pregnancy, more likely to leave an abusive relationship, and are less likely to suffer from depression.

Unfortunately, under President Bush's administration, the Department of Education has created a huge title IX loophole. By bending title IX rules, it is now easier for schools to evade their responsibilities to provide opportunities for female athletes. It is wrong for this administration to reverse the progress made over the last three decades.

Tonight, I will be joining my colleagues in the annual congressional baseball game and when I join the lineup in RFK Stadium, I will be on the line for title IX.

Mr. President, I hope you can join us in supporting title IX by repealing these damaging new rules instead of slamming the door of opportunity in the face of women.

□ 1015

LET US DISCONNECT THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR TELEPHONE TAX

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce to all Americans that the Spanish-American War of 1898 has ended. It has been 107 years since the war was over and Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders went up San Juan Hill and we won that war. Yet 95 percent of all Americans are still paying for it and do not even know it.

Introduced in 1898 was a phone tax, which established the concept of a temporary luxury tax to defray costs on the Spanish-American War. It started on 1,300 phones, a tax on telephones. Today more than 100 million American households across the Nation still are paying for this excise tax to the tune of \$5.6 billion a year on their phone services such as land lines, cell phones, and dial-up Internet connection. This tax strikes at every use of the telephone and burdens everyone, especially those in lower incomes.

Initially, this tax was used to finance this 3-month Spanish-American War, but it has been made permanent and was even raised in World War II.

So I would like to commend the gentleman from California for sponsoring legislation to get rid of this "temporary tax." This tax has proved there is no such thing as a temporary tax, and let us disconnect the Spanish-American tax on telephones.

33RD ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I also rise with my colleagues who are here from the Women's Caucus to pay tribute to a historic occasion, the celebration of the 33rd anniversary of Title IX that seeks to achieve fairness among student athletes, both men and women.

For 33 years, Title IX has expanded opportunities for young women and girls to participate in athletic programs in schools across the country. Since it was enacted in 1972, women's participation in these sports has increased by 400 percent at college level and about 800 percent in high schools. Title IX's fundamental intent is significant because it ensures equal access and opportunity to all women and especially women of color.

And yesterday I had the opportunity of joining with Members of the Senate and the House to celebrate this very important occasion and to also make very clear that we are in opposition to this clarification, or notion of clarification, that the Secretary of the Department of Education would like to somehow implement, which would actually create a big loophole so that we would not be able to account for those young women participating in these sports. It would keep scholarships from them and the ability to participate in sports. So, please, I ask the Members to contact the President.

IRAQ

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, day after day Members from across the aisle have been coming to this floor to tell Americans that in their opinion we are losing the war on terror. They say that Iraq is a disaster, Gitmo is a gulag, and that our soldiers should have come home yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, they have no shame. If they want policy change, fine. But do not undermine our soldiers' efforts by going all out and selling this as hopeless in order to try to score political points.

Did they think winning the war was going to be easy? No one ever told them the endeavor would be without cost. Iraq is not a failure. Is it tough? For heaven's sake, absolutely, yes, it is tough. We all knew that going in. But transforming Iraq, freeing millions of people, stamping out terrorism in a nation right in the middle of the Arab world will pay huge dividends in the war on terror, period. It gives us a democratic ally in the Middle East.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this effort, rather than tearing it and the brilliant men and women in uniform down.

THE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, what is it that the Republicans really do not like about Social Security? The Social Security system has provided retirement security for millions of Americans. But every time these Republicans start talking about Social Security, things get worse for those retirees. In the Senate the other day they talked about a new plan for Social Security that drastically cuts the benefits of future retirees and current retirees.

Then the Republicans on the House side here decided they had a new plan yesterday, and what did they decide? After borrowing \$700 billion from the Social Security trust fund, yesterday the Republicans in the House decided to end that trust fund, to get rid of that trust fund, to make the solvency of Social Security worse now than it is today. That was their plan.

In the Senate, they cut the benefits and here they end the solvency of Social Security by ending the trust fund. They have taken \$700 billion out of the trust fund since George Bush was elected. Bill Clinton left them a \$5.6 trillion surplus. They squandered it. It is gone. And the President has suggested he is not planning to pay it back, the first President in the history of the country that said he would not pay back the Social Security trust fund, and now these boys want to end the whole thing.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is time to turn down the rhetoric and to stop the raid on the Social Security trust fund and start allowing Americans to invest their Social Security taxes in personal savings accounts.

For more than 40 years, the United States Congress has shamelessly used payroll taxes intended for Social Security to fund Big Government spending. Thanks to the leadership of President George W. Bush, Congress has undertaken a national discussion about how we deal with the inevitable insolvency in the program. And while there are multiple plans for reforms, several of my colleagues yesterday offered a thoughtful approach.

The Ryan-Johnson-McCrery-Shaw plan is a good start down the right path for form, first and foremost by stopping the raid on the Social Security fund, by requiring that any surplus in Social Security taxes be returned to the American people in personal savings accounts. The plan ensures that Social Security taxes will be used for Social Security.